

3rd. April, 1929.

R.W.M. Gibbs, Esq., M.A.,
34 St Michael's Street,
OXFORD.

Dear Mr Gibbs,

I have delayed in answering your letter owing to the holidays.

The calculation of the significance of the correlation coefficient is only exact for quantitative data drawn from a population distributed normally in the two variates. It is in my experience never misleading for data which can be regarded as quantitative even when it is far from normal. In *Metron* III, pp. 329-332 I test some very ^{sub} normal sampling experiments and they agree ^{fairly} frequently with theory. I suppose in speaking of a Quality Correlation you have always in mind the correlations of an underlying quantitative variate. If these variates can be supposed nearly normal one is on very firm ground.

Yours sincerely,

The test of significance by Contingency Methods in Chap IV of my book could be used if the idea of a quantitative variate is inappropriate.